

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/089,185

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a thrombin-containing composition and to a reagent for measurement of fibrinogen concentration.

In the Office Action dated August 31, 2004, claims 9-14, 18-20, 30-35, and 38-46 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 15, 16, 36 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on any one of nine references that were cited by the Examiner as teaching the claimed combination of calcium ion, an organic acid, and thrombin.

In this Amendment, Applicants have canceled the previously pending claims except for method claims 18-20, and have added new claims 47-62 herein. These new claims are particularly directed to a composition (claims 47-54) and to a reagent (claims 55-62) comprising thrombin, water-soluble organic acid, and 0.05-10 weight/volume % surfactant. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is particularly directed to independent claims 47 and 55. Support is seen in the specification, e.g., at pages 5-8 of the specification and the examples, and the disclosure at page 8, lines 9-14 is particularly noted.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references cited in the Office Action describe the composition as set forth in claims 47 - 62. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are distinguished over the cited prior art of record, and are presently in condition for allowance.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/089,185

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

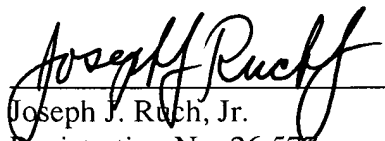
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER


Joseph J. Roch, Jr.
Registration No. 26,577

Date: February 28, 2005